

Docket No.: 21776-00033-US1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kazuhito Kojima et al.

Application No.: 10/606,184

Confirmation No.: 1598

Filed: June 26, 2003

Art Unit: 2166

For: DATABASE SYSTEM AND A METHOD OF
DATA RETRIEVAL FROM THE SYSTEM

Examiner: S. F. Lin

RESPONSE TO NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT

MS Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, applicant submits the attached revision of Section V of the previously filed Appeal Brief.

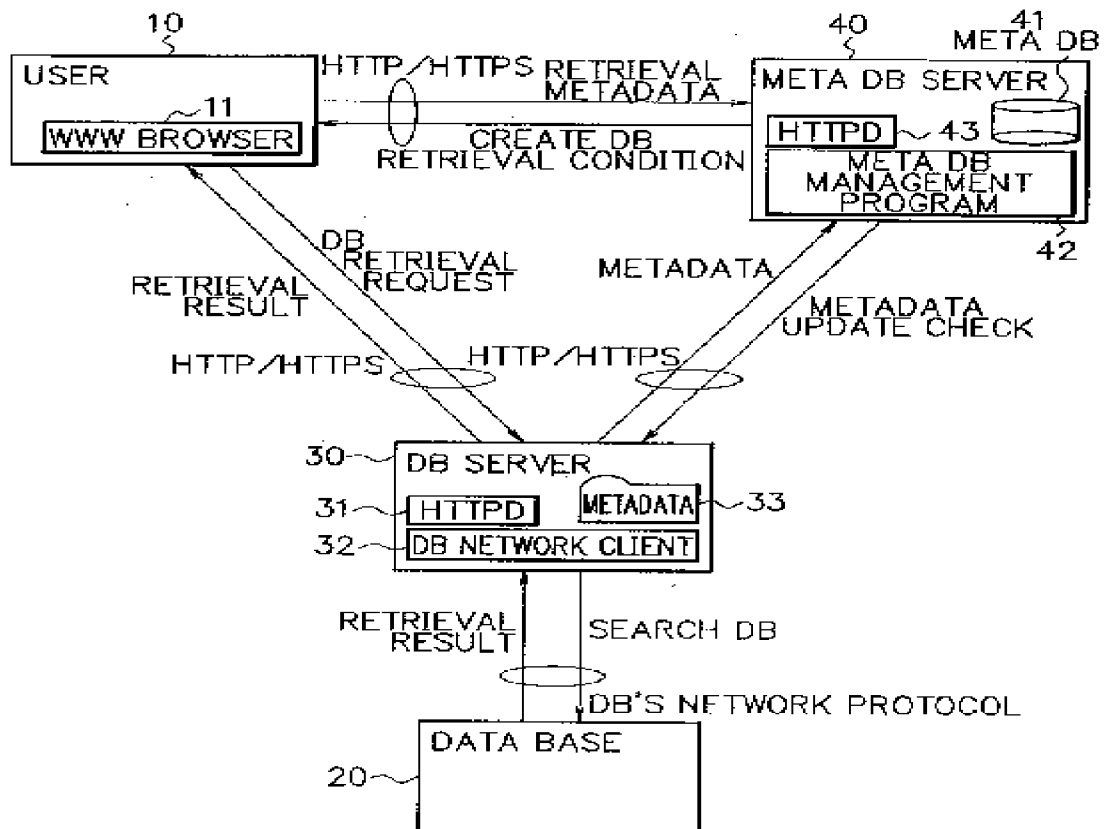
V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Kojima et al. discloses a method of data retrieval using metadata, pertaining to real data stored in at least one database (DB) , that is collected and managed in a single meta DB server, wherein the metadata that match a retrieval request are extracted by searching of the meta DB server and bypassing the server of the at least one database.¹ In particular, as shown in **FIG. 2** below, Kojima et al. discloses a user terminal **10** that inputs a keyword for search, issues a retrieval request, displays a retrieval result; a database (DB) **20** which stores actual data; a DB server **30** further comprising a retrieval request receiving module **31**, a retrieval executing module **32**; and a DB network client **32**; and a meta DB server **40**.²

¹ U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2004/0010493 at **ABSTRACT** and claims.

² *Id.* at FIG. 2, paragraphs **[0069]** to **[0073]**.

FIG. 2



Further, **FIG. 4** of Kojima et al. discloses the method of data retrieval of claims 1 and 9 comprising a series of search processes in correspondence with the user terminal 10, data base (DB) 20, DB server 30, and meta DB server 40. In particular, the flow chart of **FIG. 4** of Kojima et al. discloses the administrator of the DB server 30 creates and registers/saves metadata 33 that pertain to the DB 20 in step S1 of **FIG. 4**.³ These metadata 33 can be looked up from other machines on the network 50 via the HTTPD 31 on the DB server 30. In step S2 of **FIG. 4**, the administrator of the meta DB server 40 registers information required for acquiring/collecting metadata 33 from the DB servers 30. After information of each DB 20 to be supported is registered, the meta DB server 40 acquires metadata 33 pertaining to the registered DBS 20 for the DB servers 30 in step S3 of **FIG. 4**, and registers the acquired metadata 33 in the meta DB 41 in step S4.⁴ When a

³ Specification at **FIG. 4**, page 25, lines 23-27.

⁴ Specification at **FIG. 4**, page 26, lines 3-27.

search is made, the user inquires of the meta DB server **40** using a World Wide Web browser in step **S5** of **FIG. 4** and the meta DB server **40** searches for DBS **20** that matches the user's inquiry using the meta DB **41** in step **S6** of **FIG. 4**.⁵ In step **S7** of **FIG. 4**, a retrieval condition creation form page (GUI control window) is formed using the retrieval result and metadata and sends it to the user terminal **10**.⁶ In step **S8** of **FIG. 4**, the user checks if the retrieval result is satisfactory and if not, returns to step **S5** of **FIG. 4**.⁷ If satisfactory, the flow advances to step **S9** of **FIG. 4**, where the user creates a retrieval condition used for retrieving real data from the extracted DB **20** using the presented retrieval condition and issues it as a retrieval request to the DB server **30**.⁸ Upon receiving the retrieval request, the DB server **30** translates the retrieval request into a format that matches the DB **20** in step **S10** of **FIG. 4**.⁹ Upon reception of the translated retrieval request, the DB server **30** issues a retrieval request to the DB **20** in place of the user to search and retrieve real data in step **S11** of **FIG. 4**.¹⁰ The retrieval result is sent back to the user terminal **10** and displayed in step **S12** of **FIG. 4**.¹¹

Thus, with support of the above disclosure, Kojima et al. claims, as recited in independent claim 1 below and as similarly recited in independent claim 9:

[A] method of data retrieval by a user from a distributed database, comprising:

saving metadata pertaining to real data stored in databases distributed on a network in first servers distributed on the network associated with each of said databases (**FIG. 4, ref. S3, S4; page 9, lines 18-19; page 26, lines 16-21**);

collecting metadata saved in said first servers and storing said metadata in a metadata database of a second server without storing the real data represented by said metadata (**FIG. 4, ref. S3, S4; page 9, lines 17-18; page 26, lines 16-21**);

⁵ Specification at **FIG. 4**, page 27, lines 1-12.

⁶ Specification at **FIG. 4**, page 27, lines 13-18.

⁷ Specification at **FIG. 4**, page 27, lines 19-27.

⁸ Specification at **FIG. 4**, page 27, lines 19-27.

⁹ Specification at **FIG. 4**, page 28, lines 1-12.

¹⁰ Specification at **FIG. 4**, page 28, lines 1-20.

¹¹ Specification at **FIG. 4**, page 27, lines 10-30.

extracting metadata that matches a user retrieval request from a user terminal by searching metadata stored in said metadata database, and transmitting a retrieval result including information of a location of the first server saving the metadata that matches said user retrieval request, to said user terminal (**FIG. 4, ref. S6; page 9, lines 19-21, page 27, lines 8-9**);

inputting a real data retrieval condition for the database on the basis of the retrieval result of the metadata database transmitted to said user terminal (**FIG. 4, ref. S7; page 9, lines 22-23; page 27, lines 9-11**);

issuing a real data retrieval condition from said user terminal to the first server on the basis of said information of a location of the first server (**FIG. 4, S9; page 9, lines 21-22; page 27, lines 16-18**),

wherein said real data retrieval condition is issued to said first server by bypassing said second server (**FIG. 4; page 26, lines 16-21**); and

retrieving, by the first server, the real data from the corresponding database after converting said real data retrieval condition into a format which is concordant with the database (**Fig. 4, S10; page 28, lines 1-2**).

Conclusion

If a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21776-00033-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 17, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Myron Keith Wyche/
Myron Keith Wyche
Registration No.: 47,341
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1875 Eye Street, NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Agent for Applicant